Inmate Voting

611.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes the requirement for providing eligible inmates the opportunity to vote during elections, pursuant to election statutes.

611.2 POLICY

The Thurston County Sheriff's Office Corrections Bureau will provide eligible inmates the opportunity to vote during elections, pursuant to election statutes. We will partner with the Thurston County Auditor to establish a process that conforms to applicable laws.

611.3 PROCEDURES

Inmates in custody continue to have the right to vote. Sentenced inmates also maintain this right. The inmate shall contact the county auditor who will verify the inmate's right to vote and provide access to qualified inmates for voting in local, state and federal elections, pursuant to election codes.

Inmates are advised of their voting rights via the Inmate Electronic Tablets.

Registering to Vote

An inmate who is eligible to vote should send an electronic kite to Admin Request and they will be provided a voter registration form. The inmate must fill out the form and turn it in to a Deputy who will send it to the Auditor's Office via inter-office mail. Registration information posters and applications will be made available to all jail housing areas prior to major elections. These items are provided by the Thurston County Auditor's Office.

Requesting an Absentee Ballot

An Inmate who will be in custody during an election and wishes to vote shall submit a request to the Auditor's Office for an absentee ballot.

Voting

All ballots received shall be delivered to inmates in a timely manner to ensure compliance with the inmates' right to vote. For out of County ballots, once delivered to the inmate, it shall be the responsibility of the inmate to mail the ballot in accordance with the state's voting requirements. If the inmate is indigent, the Corrections Bureau will mail the ballot. If the ballot is for Thurston County, the ballot will be placed in a delivered secure ballot box (provided by the Auditor's Office) and picked up by the Auditor's Office.

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